pennsylvania musician

magazine

Vol.42 #499 May 2025

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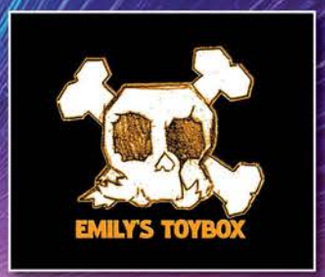
6-Open Mic Night 6pm till 9pm
7-Karaoke 6pm till 9pm
8-Music Bingo 6:30pm till 8:30pm
9-Jeff McGaw 6pm till 8pm, Roadcase 8pm till 11pm
10-Emily's Toybox 8pm till 11pm
11-Happy Mother's Day
12-Trivia 6:30pm till 8:30pm
14-Karaoke 6pm till 9pm
15-Bike Night and Colin Alvarez Band 6pm till 9pm
16-Hat Trick 6pm till 8pm, Fickle Mistress 8pm till 11pm
17-Darkside on Tap 8pm till 11pm
18-Adult Naughty Bingo 5:30pm till 8:30pm
19-Trivia 6:30pm till 8:30pm
21-Karaoke 6pm till 9pm
22-Free Jukebox and Pool 6pm till 9pm
23-RJ Moody 6pm till 8pm, Y2kids 8pm till 11pm
24-Penntera 8pm till 11pm
25-Clayote Studio Pottery 4pm till 7pm
26- Trivia 6:30pm till 8:30pm
27-Zavala 7pm till 9pm
28-Karaoke 6pm till 9pm
29-Jeep Night 6pm till 9pm
30-Brad Harden 6pm till 8pm, No Reply 8pm till 11pm
31-Mason Hess Band 8pm till 11pm



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Rachel Rocks.....Out & About

Eric Hoffman.....National

Chris Rider .....Rider's On The Storm

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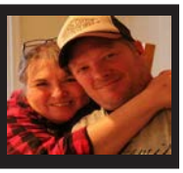
EDITOR RAMBLINGS
By Josh Noll



Hello PA Musicians, welcome to the May issue! This month marks my 7th year since taking over the paper. That's 84 issues of PA Musician under my belt—84 cover stories, 84 editor's notes, 84 trips around my delivery route, and 84 times I said, "Thank GOD I got that done this month." Not sure how we do it each month, but we make it happen.

I have an awesome team who keep the wheels spinning. I'd like to thank everyone that helps with the paper—my delivery helpers who distribute month after month: Sterling Koch, Keith Hummel, Eric "Space" Dengler, Daralene Hassinger, Jim Price and his northern team, and many more.

Thanks to all my advertisers, some of whom have been in the paper long before I took it over. Thanks to Dave Moore for heading up the webpage team.

Thanks to my writers—Eric Hoffman, Chris Rider, Jim Price, and Rachel Rocks—without whom we would have nothing to read about. If you see them out covering your show, remember they all have day jobs and make a great sacrifice to come out and support your band, so please thank them often.

Extra special thank you to Rachel, who has been the backbone of the paper for many, many years. She has a new day job, so her time is even more limited lately. Please give her a hug and a special thank you for continuing to support the local live music scene.

Last but certainly not least is Robin Noll, aka MOM. She is an amazing woman who never takes a break and always keeps me on my toes. We got the paper done last month and instantly started moving equipment. Within a week, she had all her stuff neatly in place with over 100 pictures hung around the house and her new office.

It's been a long couple of months, but hopefully, after this issue, we can start getting back to normal for the year. But I doubt it. There are always challenges in life.

I'd also like to thank all the readers and followers of the magazine, everyone who uses our free classified section, and anyone who sends us a review. It's the whole community that makes PA Musician Magazine work and why it has lasted over 40 years.

I've just been a small part of the legacy the paper leaves. This is not the internet, where countless posts get lost in the jumble each day and passing minute. This is print—and it provides a history of what the local scene has done. Years after your hard drive crashes or your internet melts down, issues of PA Musician Magazine—with bands like Halestorm, Kix, Emily's Toybox, The Sharks, Live, The Inciters, Hank the Buffalo, Katz 22, Stonewood, and maybe even your band—will still be floating around this thing we call Earth.

It's about telling our story and keeping the music alive. —Wow, getting a little deep.If you'd like to be part of history, please give me a call or send a text: 717-636-4203, or email: joshnoll@pamusician.net.

And please—get out and see a show. Lots to do this month! Just look through the pages, and you can pretty much plan your whole month. Until the 85th time, Pennsylvania.

Ragged Grace

UPCOMING SHOWS

FRIDAY 5/9 HERSHEY ITALIAN LODGE 6-8
SUNDAY 5/11 HILTON AD LIB 1130-230
FRIDAY 5/16 MIDDLETOWN VFW 7-10
SATURDAY 5/17 PALMYRA LEGION 4-6
THURSDAY 5/22 ETTERS VFW 5-8
SATURDAY 5/24 CASSEL VINEYARD 6-830
SATURDAY 5/31 BRIDGEWATER 7-9

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Where The Herd's At

5.2 Horn Pub 8-11 pm
5.3 Vertical For Life 2 pm
5.5 Sierra Madre 5-8 pm
5.10 Middletown VFW 7-10 pm
5.16 Flinchy's 8-11 pm
5.17 Doyle Hotel 7 pm
5.18 Hershey Vineyard 2-5 pm
5.22 End Zone Sports Bar 8-10 pm
5.23 Liquid Noise 7-10 pm
5.30 Ridge Run 8-11 pm
5.31 Copper Pub 6-9 pm

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Megan and Dave

Upcoming Shows

Friday, May 2
Liquid Noise, 7-9

Tuesday, May 6
Hosting Open Mic at the Copper Pub, 6:30-8:30

Thursday, May 8
New Cumberland Food Truck Rally, 5-8

Friday, May 16
Copper Pub and Grille, 6-9

Sunday, May 25
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Friday, May 30
Flinchy's, 8-11

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05-23-25 DOCKSIDE WILLIES, LEMOYNE, PA (duo)
05-26-25 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, CAMP HILL, PA
06-06-25 HOLLYWOOD CASINO, MORGANTOWN, PA
06-13-25 DUKE'S RIVERSIDE, LEMOYNE, PA

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05/04 FLINCHY'S, CAMP HILL 2-5
05/09 BUDDY BOY WINERY, DUNCANNON 6-9
05/10 STONEY CREEK INN, DAUPHIN 7-9
05/27 THEA, MECHANICSBURG 6-8
05/29 EAGLES NEST, YORK 7-10
05/30 BIG BOTTOM BREWING, DILLSBURG 7-10
05/31 PARX CASINO, SHIPPENSBURG 8-11

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5/31 THE JAMES PATIO, WILLIAMSPORT 8-10PM
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OUT 'n' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

April definitely showered a lot of craziness on my family, but alas Spring has sprung, and I'm so ready for some sunshine, mentally and physically. I'm super grateful for all of the music I was still able to see and hear. Music is my lifeline, and it definitely gives me the mental relief to my crazy days!

My first stop this month was down to the Blue Sky Tavern for open mic night hosted by Matt Jameson Live! It happened to be Chris Auxt's birthday, Jen secretly invited all of Chris's musical friends and they showed up to jam! It was awesome to see so many friends jamming and having a good time! We also had the opportunity to hear two new young guys, Owen, at only 11 years old, he could already play guitar better than a lot of adults! And then Josiah played some instrumental piano pieces that was also very refreshing. Marshall Stone came up from the York area to sing us a couple of his songs. If you've never heard Marshall, he's definitely a very unique performer(s). Jon from Hat Trick was in the house again and jumping up to jam on harmonica and keys every chance he got. Brock played some originals, and his wife even came up to sing along. We saw the Funcannon crew way out of their element in Lewisberry! Mike even got on the Djembe and played along with Derek Avalon. We saw Hank and Slade, Crasher, and Rob Davis even jammed standing up! Matt even proved that music isn't his only talent, he also made chocolate cupcakes with peanut butter icing for the special event!

My next night out I headed over to Copper Pub to hear Roger Bowyer playing with his good friend, Rich Moore, from Virginia. It was awesome hearing Roger jam with his friend. Rich was filled with jokes and entertainment. These guys just gelled together like Peas and Carrots. It was a cool thing to see and hear.

The night continued over to Fratelli's to see Matt Jameson Live! back where it all began almost exactly 3 years ago! Hard to believe he's only been performing for 3 years! Time flies when you're having fun, and it's been an absolute blast watching him grown and develop in the musician he is today! It's also been so much fun watching his fan base grow, and seeing people enjoying his music at every show! This month he's going to be celebrating his 500th Show! That's pure craziness to me, but I couldn't be more proud!

After Fratelli's Matt and I zoomed down to Horn Pub for the next Chris Auxt birthday celebration. The Horn Pub was packed, and there were wall to wall musicians. Every song someone new was stepping up on stage to play along. It's crazy cool to have so much talent in one place, and to see everyone supporting each other and just sharing their talents and good times. Chris definitely had a good time, whether he remembers it or not!

Saturday started out as an emotional one, we moved Mom from the Farm House into the Brookline Manor retirement village with my Aunt Penny. They have an awesome little two bedroom cottage, and Mom is thrilled with her new home! She's been decorating like crazy and having lots of fun in her new place. After we got her all moved in Holly and Jen came to pick me up, and we all headed to the Carl's Cabin Party.

The Carl's are good friends we met at Falls Crab Shack at one of Matt's shows. Jeff and Kierstin have become great friends, and

continued on next page...

MATT JAMESON LIVE!
"NEVER NOT HAVING FUN!"
Fri. 5/2-Back Porch Brewing, Carlisle, 7-10pm
Sat. 5/3-Vertical 4 Life Music Fest, Mech., 2pm
Wed. 5/7-OPEN MIC Blue Sky Tavern, 6:30-9pm
Fri. 5/9-Horn Pub, Lewisberry, 8-11pm
Sat. 5/10-Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel, 6-9pm
Sun. 5/11-Shy Bear, Lewistown, 4-7pm
Tues. 5/13-Falls Crab Shack, York Haven, 6-8pm
Wed. 5/14-OPEN MIC Blue Sky Tavern, 6:30-9pm
Thurs. 5/15-Fenderz Bar & Grill, York, 6-9pm
Fri. 5/16-Carlisle Moose, 7-10pm (I'll sign you in!)
Sat. 5/17-Carlisle Imports, Brew Mixer, 11am-1:30p
Sat. 5/17-Private Party, Duncannon, PA
Wed. 5/21-OPEN MIC, Blue Sky Tavern, 6:30-9pm
Fri. 5/23-Flinchy's, Camp Hill, 8-11pm
Wed. 5/28-OPEN MIC, Blue Sky Tavern, 6:30-9pm
Fri. 5/30-Wolf Brewing, Mech, 6:30-9:30pm
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STEEL
TOUR SCHEDULE
5/3 Vertical 4 Life Benefit Concert
Mechanicsburg Picnic Grounds PA 4pm
5/23 Mechanicsburg Legion, Mechanicsburg PA 8pm
6/8 Fallston Barrel House, Fallston MD 4pm
6/21 Bourbon Mill, New Oxford PA 6pm
6/27 Private Party, Tannytown MD 8:30pm
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have had Matt come play on the island, and now at the family cabin in the middle of the woods! Hank the Buffalo was also at the party and all of the guys just jammed all day long. It's always awesome to see musicians play private parties. They are able to get even more creative and have a blast doing what they love! Unfortunately, we had a nasty rainstorm come through the night before so it was more a mudfest than a music fest, but a little dirt never hurt anyone! There was music, food, and so much fun! Another storm was coming on the radar, so we quickly packed up the outdoor fun and moved inside for more of an acoustic sing-a-long. It was an awesome way to end this super crazy day. I'm so blessed to have such amazing friends. What a great ending to a day I was dreading!

The next day I headed to the Vineyard and Brewery of Hershey for Ragged Grace. I've only seen Rachael and Slade perform together, but at this show I had the privilege to see all 3, their guitar player Jeremy also joined them for this show. With Jeremy playing guitar, it freed up Rachael to play even more on the piano. They played a bunch of covers, but also threw in a couple of amazing originals. Ragged Grace has been building momentum throughout the midstate and beyond. Check out their ad in this issue and get out there and check these guys out, trust me, you'll be glad you did.

After Ragged Grace I zoomed over to Flinchy's for Derek Henry Acoustic and John Staz. It had been quite a while since I saw Derek. I saw him truly smiling and enjoying my annoying antics! He must've missed me too. It was also Michele Rider's birthday. The whole bar was celebrating her special day with cupcakes! They were so delicious. Great music and cupcakes twice in one month! Talk about being in the right place at the right time! The merch girls now created "Derek Henry Acoustic" shirts! I can't wait to get mine!! One of the best ways to support your favorite local musicians is to buy their music and their merch! Every penny and every stream counts towards success!

Wednesday night I found myself back at Open Mic at Blue Sky Tavern. It wasn't quite as crazy as the last time, but there is always so much talent to see and hear. One of the regulars Ben Darrow had a special surprise, Curtis Smith showed up to play a few songs, and also jam with Ben, just like they did back in the day in the band Masque. It was cool seeing band mates jamming together once again. I also met Brandon, another musician who played years ago, but after raising his kids, he's ready to get back on the circuit and start jamming again! Hopefully he has a classified in this issue! Open mics are a great way to meet fellow musicians. I will never stop writing about how awesome it is to see all of these musicians supporting each other. Also, the music lovers that show up to this open mic speaks to the amazing musicians too. It's a special treat for everyone, just like the PA Musician Magazine's tag line… this is the place for not only the people who make music, but also the people who love music!

On a Friday Cindy and I bopped up to The Doyle for Dr. Nyce. We totally forgot to make a reservation, but luckily a very nice couple let us sit with them, and we were able to sit back and enjoy the music. You can read all about Dr. Nyce in this month's cover story. He just released his first full length album on April 25th. The songs on his album are all so unique and really show you how truly talented this guy is! Most times when you listen to a CD you get bored because every song sounds the same.. not on this album! He takes you to church, the jazz club, a little bit of Americana, mixed in with some good old Rock and Roll! And I dare you not to cry during "Lullabye"… Dr. Nyce is not only an amazing musician but an amazing friend too. Congrats Zach on this awesome release! Read his cover story, stream his music, go see a show! Trust me this is another one you won't regret checking out!

This was a busy Friday night so we didn't let the dust settle under our feet, next we zoomed to Copper Pub for Jason Carst. We got word that Megan was out enjoying some music so we decided to join her! We quickly joined the Copper Pub party and got people up on their feet dancing and singing along! We finished off Jason's early show, but there was still time left in the night.

The final stop of the night was down to Horn Pub for Matt Jameson Live! Matt had Horn Pub packed and quite a few guests singers in the house, including but not limited to the one and only Jeff Carl! I'm so glad the patrons at Horn Pub love music so much. It always a hootenanny of a good time at the Horn Pub!

Saturday was Crash Acoustic's first solo show, and he was playing at Flinchy's, so of course the gang all got together to get out there and support him. It's hard on a Saturday night because so many people are out performing at their own show, but as the night went on, the musicians kept trickling in. Crasher saved the best for last and shocked us all with is first original, "Liquor Cabinet". Wow!! What a great song! I'm pretty sure Stephen got some of it on video! It's hard to believe Crasher only picked up and started playing the guitar a few months ago!

After a long day at work, I swung in to The Dog House for a bit

continued on next page...

Rhyne & Tabyn McCormick

Upcoming Show Dates

5/3 Eagle Hotel, Fredericksburg 6p
5/10 Allegro Winery, Stewartstown 1p
5/17 Plein Air Fest, Camp Hill 11:30a-2:30p
5/23 Snitz Creek, Palmyra 6p
5/24 Spring Dam Brewing, Roaring Spring, 7p
5/29 Harvest Grill, Harrisburg 6p
6/6 Allegro Brewing, Stewartstown 5p
6/11 The Hideaway, Mt Gretna 6-9p
6/13 Lunch Box Series, Camp Hill 11:30a-1p
6/14 Grandview Vinyard, Mt Joy 6p
6/15 Quentin Tavern, Quentin 5p
6/20 Sophia's, Mechanicsburg 6p

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Friday May 30th
Whiskey & Wildflowers 6-7:30pm small stage
Cody Tyler & Gypsy Convoy 8-10:30pm main stage

Saturday May 31st
Jake Mach 12noon-1pm main stage
DJ Lars Line Dance 1-2pm
Faith Noel 2-3pm small stage
DJ Lars Line Dance 3-3:30pm
Wesley Spangler Band 4-5:30pm main stage
DJ Lars Line Dance 5:30-6pm
Harmony Holler Band 6-7pm small stage
DJ Lars Line Dance 7-7:30pm
And to close out the night, back by popular demand.
Chris Woodward & Shindiggin 8-10:30pm main stage

Jon from Hat Trick

of Erica's open mic. When I walked in Roger Bowyer was on stage, followed by his friend Morgan (Mo). Mo recently moved back to the area, and is looking forward to getting back on stage and sharing his music! After their performances I scooped up Cindy and we zoomed down to Sturges for Derek Avalon's solo show. Derek once again had Sturges packed! Derek is so determined to not use a tablet when he performs. He sings so many songs with tons of lyrics. I do realize how much some musicians can get too zoned into the tablet and not put on a show. Derek is doing a great job and can handle the pressure of a million video cameras in his face too! You can catch Derek aka "Frank the Bison" also playing on a couple songs with Hank the Buffalo, but it's awesome to see him pull off his own whole show!

On a Friday I had to work late, but I was super grateful I made it in time for the last set of Megan and Dave. These guys play so many of the songs of my youth, and also my favorite songs of today! They really play a wide variety of music. I'm bummed I missed Megan's guitar skillz! But I'm sure I will catch them next time. Megan is another one who has not been playing guitar for very long, but she is quickly adding songs to the list that she can play. It's awesome seeing the confidence grow in both Megan and Dave. I love seeing them just relax and have a good time on stage! Tues, May 6th, they will be back at Copper Pub hosting the May edition of Copper Pub's open mic, the fun starts at 6:30!

The next night we zoomed up to The Doyle to celebrate their 3rd Anniversary with Hank the Buffalo. I thought the place would be jam packed; The crowd wasn't huge, but our celebration was! Congrats to The Doyle on celebrating 3 years! Thank you for continuing to support live music!

The following weeks fun started at Copper Pub with Roger Bowyer. Roger was flying solo tonight, and he put on one heck of a show. I've never heard another solo acoustic guy that can do "Purple Rain" like Roger! During his break his friend Mo came up and played a few songs. After Roger's first set I zoomed over to Flinchy's for some Dave Gates Music. People kept requesting country music, which Dave just loves.. but he got it done! Dave is over the moon excited to start his new project InnaVibe a Reggae/Rock band based out of Harrisburg.

The next night I was right back at Copper Pub, this time for Keith & Sonya. Keith & Sonya have been advertising for a while now, but unfortunately I don't made it out to many shows, but I'm glad I made it to this one. Keith handles most of the singing and plays guitar, and Sonya backs him up on vocals and handles a few different instruments; the mandolin, harmonica, saxophone, tambourine! She adds to each song in her own special way! It's awesome to see a husband and wife combo playing together, there aren't many of them out there! Check out Keith & Sonya's add in this issue to get all of their details and see where and when they will be playing next!

The last show of the month was a trip out to the Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel for you guessed it, Hank the Buffalo. Cindy and I both considered heading in a different direction, but for the weeks we had, we just really wanted to have fun, so we knew Hank was guaranteed fun! When we got there we quickly got the crowd up dancing and having a blast. I don't even know how long the guys played, but they played at least for an extra hour! The people out in Fredericksburg loved them!

The month ended much calmer than it began, with a special Sunday Funday Paint Party with my friends. Jen Auxt owns Bristle & Board, she came to Cindy's house, and five of us got together and painted a beautiful picture of a sunflower field and a starry night. It was my first paint party, and honestly I was surprised at how much fun I had. Jen is an amazing teacher, and she can make anyone feel like a professional artist! Hopefully we have more paint parties in our future!

Owen at Blue Sky Open Mic

What a month. I'm so glad I got out as much as I did. Another month of being amazed by all of the music. I'm so fortunate to live where I do, and being within minutes of so many super fun venues that host live music! Thanks so much to everyone for all of the amazing entertainment and seeing me through an emotional month. I truly don't know where I'd be without God, Family, and Music!

Have an amazing month friends! If I see ya Out and About please stop me and say Hi! Get out there and support live music!! Check out our website...

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Friday, May 23rd 6-9pm Keith & Sonya
Friday, May 30th 6-9pm The Neighborly
Saturday, May 3rd 6-9pm Rhyne McCormick
Saturday, May 10th 6-9pm Matt Jameson
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Saturday, May 24th Kenny Shadel
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NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! Last month began with the return of Singer-Songwriter of Cape May Conference featuring keynote speakers Laura Stevenson and Adam Weiner of Low Cut Connie. The annual beachside event last happened in 2019 and was sidelined after Covid. The return of the conference this year marked its 13th Anniversary with dozens of artists and bands taking over the beach resort of Cape May, New Jersey. Congratulations to event organizer and concert promoter, John Harris Jr, on another wildly successful conference. Harris has been the talent buyer for XL Live in Harrisburg since its opening in 2018.

Finnish icon, Michael Monroe, returned to America for the first time in 9 years last month to play 10 dates. Monroe rose to fame in the 80s as the vocalist for glam punk band, Hanoi Rocks. He put on a phenomenal show April 3 at Jergel's in Pittsburgh playing both Hanoi Rocks and solo hits including 'Dead, Jail or Rock N Roll,' 'Trick of the Wrist' and 'Taxi Driver.' Monroe vowed to the crowd that it won't be another 9 years until his next return to America and he hopes to reform Hanoi Rocks.

Orange County's The Stitches, also returned to the East Coast for 4 shows titled 'East Coast Catastrophe.' The amazing punk band played New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and New York City's TV Eye on April 6. It had been 16 years since The Stitches visited the East Coast and the show was unforgettable!

Tommy Conwell and the Young Rumblers played The Village in Lancaster once again on April 12. The legendary Philadelphia-based band has played 22 concerts sporadically the past years since reuniting in 2008. Tommy Conwell continues to play solo shows and returns to Harrisburg's Forum on May 31 to help benefit The Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat.

Local artists the past month in Central PA included: Singer, Logan Betz, had a record release party for his solo project,The Last Post, at Recordsmith in Mechanicsburg on April 5. Betz currently is part of several projects including being the drummer for both The Super High-Tech Jet Fighters and Edgewood. Local legend, Shea Quinn, continues to consistently play Central PA and played Middletown's River House on April 12. And The Martini Bros played to a packed house on April 18 and Linglestown's Dog House. Lastly, a highlight of the month involved Brooklyn's MangoDog with an intimate show at Ramona's Basement in Uptown Harrisburg. The show also included Harrisburg's newest finest unknown indie band, Surface Noise, which includes members from The Virus, Happy Sally and Tsunami Experiment. MangoDog was simply great - an independent artist who creates all his music from scratch, even down to the mixing. He self produces and masters all the sounds he hears and brings them to life. MangoDog has described his sound as post-goth, dark indie and dirty pop.

The most iconic punk band is making its way to the States for the first time in over two decades. The Sex Pistols, comprising Steve Jones, Paul Cook and Glen Matlock, are hitting the road with vocalist Frank Carter to perform their landmark 1977 album Never Mind the Bollocks, Here's the Sex Pistols in its entirety. The tour marks a celebration of the band's 50th anniversary and visits Washington, D.C.'s 9:30 Club on Sept 23 and Philadelphia's Fillmore on Sept 26. Thirteen shows have been confirmed so far, but the band promises that additional tour dates will be announced soon.

Tommy Conwell & Eric

AC/DC began their "Power Up Tour," a 13-city stadium run marking the band's first trek through the U.S. and Canada since 2016. It started on April 10 in Minneapolis and will span seven weeks before ending in May in Cleveland. The veteran Australian rockers launched the tour last year at 17 European stadiums and averaged 66,174 sold tickets per show with grosses averaging $9.9 million. AC/DC play both Pittsburgh (May 8) and Landover, MD (May 12) this month. Slayer is setting out on a limited run of shows this summer, with the band adding a sole east coast headline date at Hersheypark Stadium on Sept 20 with a lineup that includes Knocked Loose, Suicidal Tendencies, Power Trip, Cavalera and Exodus. "Last year, Slayer played only two shows, " Slayer's Kerry King said in a statement, "When we played last year in Chicago, the reaction was just completely overwhelming. It was amazing. So for the Hershey concert, we'll play a Slayer show, we'll have all of our big fire ef-

continued on next page. 20...

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5/17 3 Below Band
5/23 Eddie Bluestone
5/24 Dragontooth
5/30 Jack Mauer Acoustic
5/31 TBD

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1:15 pm Amateur Fiddle Competition ages 12 and under
2:15 pm Luke Hertzog and Friends
2:45 pm Amateur Fiddle Competition ages 13-17
3:45 pm Luke Hertzog and Friends
4:15 pm Amateur Fiddle Competition ages 18 and older
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11pm Heel

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DR. NYCE

"if time is a thing that ticks"

By Josh Noll

The debut album by Dr. Nyce is a catalog of songs he's crafted over the past five years. For a full-time musician, working on a project of this magnitude becomes an obsession—one that demands perfection down to every note and detail. The 10-track album was produced by Jason Shaffer at Full Tilt Productions and is all original, except for one song: Van Morrison's "Tupelo Honey". Dr. Nyce called on a wealth of local talent to join him on this journey.

The album features drums by Logan Bedard, John Hawk, and Ron Simasek of Badlees fame; bass by Rusty Fohner, Drew Hall, and Jason Shaffer; guitar by Kathy Rimm and Ben Brandt; and saxophone by Jason Mescia from Yam Yam. This collaboration showcases the album's diversity in both style and flow. From funk to folk, country to gospel, classical to Americana—this album offers something for everyone.

Zach, aka Dr. Nyce, began his musical journey like many musicians—at an early age. His parents were both singers who always encouraged him to be vocal and to use the voice that God gave him, singing at home and in the church choir. The family piano quickly became Zach's instrument of choice, and by the age of five, he was already taking lessons. He continued studying music and singing through high school, which led to a scholarship in Vocal Performance at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove. Zach never saw himself as a solo singer and instead chose to focus his energy—and his major—on piano. He later earned his master's at Bowling Green State University in Ohio and went on to receive his Doctorate of Musical Arts.

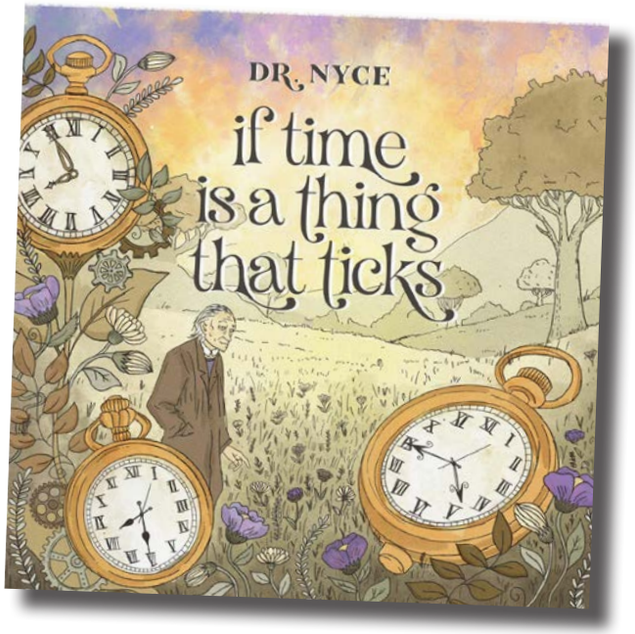
While Zach always knew music would be a part of his life, he wasn't sure that teaching was the right path. After falling in love and marrying his wife Martha, the couple moved back home to Perry County to start a family. Life moved fast. Zach took a construction job to make ends meet but always knew his true love was music.

Fast forward to 2016, and Dr. Nyce joined Katz 22 playing keys. He credits much of his professionalism to his time with Katz 22—all of whom have helped him shape his solo album. You can catch this powerhouse band performing all over the midstate, where he still plays regularly. The band showcases each member's strengths as they take turns leading your favorite rock classics. Check out their schedule on page 5.

If you've never seen Dr. Nyce live, it's hard to describe his musical prowess. With a catalog of nearly 100 songs and the ability to take requests and perform them on the spot, he's a true showman. He also performs with Cagan Goldstein as the 176ers Dueling Pianos—a highly interactive, all-request show where they take turns fielding songs and improvising based on each other's talents. From engaging the crowd to grabbing a guitar or harmonica, or jumping on key drums, each performance is a wild ride of spontaneous musical magic.

Coming off his recent win for Best Male Vocalist at this year's CPMAs, Dr. Nyce has evolved from a reserved keyboard player into a full-fledged solo artist. His debut album is just a glimpse of what's to come.

Track one, 'Overture,' is like Pink Floyd meets Jethro Tull—a wild ride that builds from mysterious to monumental. It'll have you gripping your seat with one hand and cranking the volume with the other. I was genuinely blown away, thinking, *"What the hell am I listening to?"* I even double-checked I had the right track—it's that good.



Track two, 'Spaces,' slows things down. This deep, introspective song is where the album gets its name, ***"If Time Is A Thing That Ticks"***. It asks questions about life, time, and what it all means. Its catchy chorus and meaningful lyrics will have you singing along—and reflecting on how you spend your time.

Track three, 'Because I Love You,' is plain smooth—glassy piano playing layered with Dr. Nyce's signature vocals, expressing his deep love for being a full-time musician. It's a lyrical out pouring that reads like a love letter to the life of a working musician. Many may think it's an easy, carefree road, but this track reminds listeners of the time, sacrifice, and dedication that goes into every song and performance—all done for the audience.

The album's only cover, 'Tupelo Honey,' is a well-executed tribute to Van Morrison. Jason Mescia's smooth sax lines glide along with Dr. Nyce's vocals, breathing new life into the classic.

Track five, 'Intermission,' is a keys-driven jazz piece—an instrumental gem that offers a preview of what to expect in his future instrumental album.

Next comes 'High,' featuring Ben Brandt on guitar. It's a bluesy number that asks, "Does anyone have a high I can borrow?"—blending strong organ and guitar riffs with storytelling reminiscent of Bob Dylan and a gospel, take-you-to-church Blues Brothers vibe. It's yet another testament to the album's stylistic range.

Track seven, 'I Think I Get It Now,' tells Dr. Nyce's personal journey—what it takes to truly understand life and love. It's a reflective piece that speaks to the growth and sacrifices required in any deep relationship.

'Reflections' is an upbeat, funky track that'll have you grooving. It's a song about the thoughts that shape your life—another deep and powerful piece pulled straight from Dr. Nyce's mind.

The album wraps up with 'Old Dog' and 'Lullabye'—two final, well-crafted tracks. 'Old Boy' reflects on how quickly the day-to-day grind can age you before you even realize it. 'Lullabye' is a soothing, gospel-influenced closer with a steady rhythm to ease your mind and soul.

The entire album is well-produced, with a clean and professional sound. Dr. Nyce's lyrical abilities, combined with his flawless keyboard work and smooth vocals, make this debut shine. ***"If Time Is A Thing That Ticks"*** is now available on all streaming platforms—just search "Dr. Nyce."

Dr. Nyce would like to thank the CPMAs for supporting local music and giving artists a stage to be seen. He also extends his gratitude to the members of Katz 22, not only for helping with the album but for teaching him what it means to be a professional in the rock and roll world. Thanks to Jason Shaffer at Full Tilt Productions, Fred Pellegrini for mastering help for vinyl, and most importantly, his wife Martha—for her unwavering support, for understanding the labor of love it takes, and for enduring the late nights and long hours that come with the musician's life.

To keep up with Dr. Nyce, check out the links below—
and go stream, ***"If Time Is A Thing That Ticks"*** now.
https://www.facebook.com/drnycepiano
http://www.drnyce.com
https://www.facebook.com/Katz22band
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553562882498

"Thanks so much to the Central Pennsylvania Music Hall of Fame, Rachel Rocks, and everyone who nominated me in multiple categories this year for the CPMA's.

I thank Katz 22 for teaching me the importance of band chemistry and professionalism. I thank 176ers Dueling Pianos and Cagan Goldstein for teaching me how to fly by the seat of my pants and make a convincing and truly fun musical experience. Thank you Erica Lyn Everest for your friendship and musical partnership and congrats on your win duuuuuude!!!

Certainly last but certainly not least, THANK YOU to my partner in life, my beautiful wife, Marf Nyce. I love you."

—Zach Nyce

RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

What a great month April was. The weather is (mostly) starting to get pretty nice, making for outdoor music which is my favorite season and I'm really looking forward to all the music coming to our area this summer. I got out for a fair bit of music, hit two new (to me) spots, and even got a few promo shoots in for some local bands. It was a good month for sure.

First trip out was to a new (to me) place in Camp Hill, Sworn Brewing. My dad was in visiting and my son joined us to check out Shine Delphi playing with his long-time buddy Nathan Rivera from Southern California. It's been a bit since I'd gotten the chance to catch one of Shine's shows, but I've always loved his unique style and personality (anyone that's seen him knows his laugh!) and Nathan added a great southwest sort of flavor as they went back & forth playing songs together on the fly. Sworn is a pretty small venue and it was packed to the gills which I hear is a pretty common thing there. I definitely recommend checking them out!

The following week, I headed over to Lovedraft's (rebranding as Capital City Music Hall and moving to 2nd Street in Harrisburg) for 717 Entertainment's final show at this location…and boy, was it a ripper! Opening up the evening was a project I've followed pretty much since they started, and this was their debut live show: Beautiful Divide. Having heard and seen so many of their videos on social media, I was very excited to finally see them live and they absolutely did NOT disappoint! Tony & Rachel put on a great show with their beautifully haunting original tunes that have a great energy including the debut release of their new song Live. Next up was York based The Borderline, a hard rock band that occasionally went in to a sort of party rock style singing their original high energy tunes that kept everyone moving. Taking the stage third was a band that has quickly become

a favorite of mine…and they just get better each time I've seen them: Ruiness. I've no idea what to say about them that I haven't said already, but I'll give it a shot: Their music is just down right banging, their energy is simply infectious, and they are growing quickly! In short: just go see them, I wouldn't steer you wrong :D

The fourth band of the evening was one that was described to be as indescribable…and they weren't wrong. Source comes out of Colorado with this wicked style of melodic metal with an intense light show that is just amazing. I can't really put them in any single category, but it struck me that they gave me the same feels a jam band does, but metal. It doesn't make sense, but yet it fits. They definitely added a bunch of new fans after this show. Ending the evening was Lehighton PA based Another Day Dawns. The crowd went nuts for these folks, putting an exclamation point on the evening and showing how strong of a following they have put together since they began playing in 2010. They cranked out their original hard rock tunes with awesome energy, hard driving rhythms and tight riffs all blended perfectly with great vocals. Lovedrafts will be missed… but this wasn't the end of the story, just this chapter and I'm looking forward to the next one for sure!.

A few days later we got to head just a few miles down the road to Franks' Farm in Boiling Springs for his first party of the year. My brother just knows how to throw an epic party and this was no exception. The music started off with Dave Gates cranking out tunes like Last Dance with Mary Jane, No Diggity, All Along The Watchtower, and more. Dave's always great, I've enjoyed his shows since I first met him five years ago…but I have to admit, I was anxious for the next band which just so happens is fronted by Mr Gates as well: Innavibe. This was the 5 piece reggae band's debut show, and what a perfect place for it. Now, I admit, I've never been to a reggae show but I've always

enjoyed the music when I hear it. That said, Dave and the guys are the most non-reggae-looking band I could have imagined LOL, until they start playing: it was unbelievable to me that this was their first show as they were incredibly tight with a solid sound and made for such a great time playing songs like Badfish, Good Times, Bring Me Along and more. It looks like their schedule is filling up pretty quickly so definitely keep your eyes open for these guys.

The following week, Wendy and I headed over to New Cumberland to finally see The Swisher Sweets at Dead Lightning's new room downstairs called Level6Seven. First I just want to say, what a cool little underground club vibe this room had. This was only the second show in there and I foresee great things in the future. The Sweets cranked out tunes for a packed room with great covers of songs like Mr Brightside, Last Dance w/ Mary Jane, Living On A Prayer and more. Everyone was dancing and having a blast.

My last trip out for the month was over to the Ridge Run Tavern in Elizabethtown for a CPMHOF Open Mic hosted by John Rossey of Cold Spring Union. I tried catching all the names of everyone that played, but if I missed anyone I do apologize: John Rossey, Bob, Quincy Rogers, Kate Bush, Rick Snyder, Jay,

Clifton Brian with Whiskey & Wildflowers, Zack from Spirit Of Division, Scott Crash of Crash & Cross, and we even had a wild Hank The Buffalo sighting! There were originals and covers, country, classic rock, 90s alt rock and more. It made for a great afternoon of music from a lot of talented musicians!

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. I want to once again thank all the bands, venues, and everyone else involved in our incredible local music scene for everything they do. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see; make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me out and say hi.

Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support; they need it more than ever.

LITTLE BUFFALO FESTIVAL SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR 2025 CELEBRATION

Newport, PA – April 11, 2025 – The beloved Little Buffalo Festival is returning for another vibrant celebration of music, art, food, and community. Organizers are calling on the community to help make this year's event the best one yet!

We're currently seeking enthusiastic, community-minded volunteers to help bring the 2025 Little Buffalo Festival to life. This all-day event—set in the heart of beautiful Little Buffalo State Park—is powered by volunteers who share a passion for the arts and a love for their community. Volunteers play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth operation and joyful atmosphere of the festival.

Volunteer roles include but not limited to:- Event setup and breakdown - Greeting and assisting festival guests - Parking and traffic control- Artist and performer support - Kid's area helpers
- Green team (recycling/trash management) - Info & merch booth staffing

Volunteering is a great way to connect with others, support local arts and culture, and be a part of something truly special. Whether you're able to help out for a few hours or the whole day, we'd love to have you on the team. "Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Little Buffalo Festival," says Jennifer Auxt, Volunteer Coordinator. "Their passion and commitment are what make this event so special for our community."

This year, we have a particularly important need for one or two dedicated and energetic individuals to take on the role of Kids Performance Tent Coordinator or Workshop Coordinator. This key volunteer position will be guided by the incredible and passionate long time buffalo, Lara. The coordinators will be responsible for: Developing and organizing engaging and age-appropriate activities and workshops. Recruiting and coordinating additional volunteers to assist with each area.Ensuring the safety and enjoyment of all children and adults participating in the activities. Communicating with festival organizers regarding the needs and plans for the Kids Performance Tent or Workshop Areas. Potentially sourcing materials and collaborating with local artisans or educators to lead workshops.

This is a fantastic opportunity for someone who loves working with children, is creative and organized, and wants to make a direct and positive impact on the festival experience for families.
Enjoy the festival from a unique perspective.Gain valuable experience in event organization.
Interested individuals are encouraged to learn more and sign up to volunteer through our website at **https://littlebuffalofestival.org/** or by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator at **volunteer.littlebuffalofestival@gmail.com.**

Help us make the Little Buffalo Festival on October 4, 2025, a resounding success! We look forward to welcoming you to our volunteer team. We couldn't do it without you!

THE UNUSUAL GUESTS
2025 SCHEDULE
Booking For 2025! Email TheUnusualGuests@gmail.com

Date	Time	Venue
January 10, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Linglestown American Legion, Linglestown
January 18, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Big Bottom Brewery, Dillsburg
February 1, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Back Porch Brewing, Carlisle
February 22, 2025	8 pm - 12 am	Hollywood Casino, Grantville
March 22, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Shermans Creek Inn, Shermansdale
April 4, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Back Porch Brewing, Carlisle
April 5, 2025	7 - 10 pm	The Vineyard and Brewery at Hershey, Middletown
April 26, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Big Bottom Brewery, Dillsburg
May 3, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Back Porch Brewing, Carlisle
June 20, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Linglestown American Legion, Linglestown
July 6, 2025	7 - 9 pm	Sun Retreats Lancaster County, Narvon
August 2, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Big Bottom Brewery, Dillsburg
August 29, 2025	8 - 11 pm	Shermans Creek Inn, Shermansdale
September 6, 2025	7 - 10 pm	The Vineyard and Brewery at Hershey, Middletown
September 27, 2025	8 pm - 12 am	Hollywood Casino, Grantville
October 18, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Back Porch Brewing, Carlisle
November 8, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Big Bottom Brewery, Dillsburg
November 21, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Dillsburg American Legion, Dillsburg
Novembe 29, 2025	8 - 11 pm	Jen-Jens Rhythm N Blues, East Berlin
December 20, 2025	8 - 11 pm	Carlisle Moose Lodge, Carlisle

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May 9 •DJ/Karaoke | 9-12
May 10 •Psycho City | 9-12 | $5 Cover
May 17 •Traditional Irish Music Session | 4-6
•Sidetracked | 8-11 | $5 Cover
May 24 CLOSED
May 31 •Honky Tonk Medics 8-11 | $5 Cover

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THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

Excitement and anticipation continue to build as live music heads back outside for another fun season! A few early season festivals have already taken place, and many more outdoor events involving live music are on the horizon and/or coming together. Make your plans to get out there and support them!

One of this region's earliest outdoor festivals each year is the annual two-weekend Pennsylvania Maple Festival in Meyersdale (Somerset County). With favorable weather on the festival's final day, I did the roadtrip to enjoy the festivities, including festival food, various maple cuisine, a classic car show and live music from Screamin' Blonde at Meyersdale's Festival Park. A husband-and-wife duo, Screamin' Blonde – Travis Hutzell on acoustic guitar and Shannon Hutzell on vocals – mixed together a wide variety of country, rock and blues favorites that warmed up the audience. Pleasant and enthusiastic, Screamin' Blonde sounded very good on all of it – including renditions of Lone Crow Medicine Show's "Wagon Wheel," Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Simple Man," Grand Funk Railroad's "Some Kind Of Wonderful" and more. Screamin' Blonde plays regularly at venues throughout Somerset and Bedford Counties – keep an eye out for them.

Celebrating a plant that tends to get more popular around April 20, the annual Cann-A-Toona festival, hosted by Tru Healing Concepts, took place last month at downtown Altoona's Intowne Square. The festival featured a wide array of vendors with health and cosmetic products, clothing, various arts and crafts; also food and beverage vendors, and a day-long slate of live music. I arrived in time to catch the last couple of songs from area hard rockers the Bomb Cyclones, who did good work on the Metallica version of "Whiskey in the Jar" and Fuel's "Jesus Or A Gun" to wrap up their set…Next were Altoona-based alternative rockers Toy, who seized the moment and delivered a shining set. Singer and guitarist Christian Douglas, lead guitarist Julian Saborio, bassist Adela and drummer Matt Savino boldly mixed their original song arsenal with select covers. Toy received good response on their original songs like "Pariah," "Chemical Burns," "Pens & Paper" and others; as well as versions of the Stooges' "I Wanna Be Your Dog," Green Day's "Brain Stew," plus songs from Pavement, Back Street Lovers, The Chats and others…In the meantime, area fire performance dancers Higher Frequency Illusions started performing their dance and fire maneuvers near the stage, adding to the excitement of the day. The music shifted gears into hip hop with Johnstown-based solo performer Sijel Bee. Sijel performed several numbers from his just-released full-length album "Jazz Cabbage" such as "Goldblum" and "Parade," as well as "Broke Boy Blues," His sound, vibe and bold personality drew increasing applause as his set proceeded…Next up was the PennSoulvanians' fronting duo of Michael "Duville" Thomas and Chet Denny, who played a short set mixing original songs with select covers. They did numbers from Bob Marley and Gnarls Barkley, as well as their PennSoulvanians original song "Pilgrimage." As Michael and Chet continued to perform, members of the day's next group, Clearfield's Innocent Sin, began to join them on the stage; setting up for a smooth transition as Michael and Chet introduced the group before exiting the stage. Singer Carli Jones, singer and guitarist Adam Caldwell, bassist Robert Misho and drummer Adam Moore introduced a number of new R&B and reggae-toned numbers from their forthcoming debut album expected out later this year. Innocent Sin also mixed in a strong version of the Allman Brothers' "Whipping Post." An arriving thunderstorm abruptly brought the music and festival to a close a few minutes shy of the scheduled closing time. Storm notwithstanding, the Cann-A-Toona festival was again a fun and successful event that brought many people out to enjoy the day.

Brianna Merkel

During the early days of their nonstop "Decade of Decadence" tour, 1980s hair band rock practitioners Hair Force One made frequent visits to New Sebastiano's in Altoona to get crowds to bang their heads and party down. In late March, Hair Force One's "Decade of Decadence" returned to this venue, now named Funky Claud's, for the first time in many years. The house was jam-packed when I first arrived, and the current edition of Hair Force One brought the rock – doing '80s-era rock and metal from Whitesnake, Def Leppard, Poison, Kix, Twisted Sister, Motley Crue, Kiss, AC/DC, Bon Jovi and much more. Singer Victor Synn's voice still handles it all, and he and Hair Force One still bring the glam, excitement, enthusiasm and fun party spirit that kept this crowd on the dance floor to dance, groove and headbang for the duration of the night. When the group finished their last set with Motley Crue's "Girls Girls Girls," the crowd quickly demanded more, to which the group responded with Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train" to end the night. Hair Force One is currently breaking in a new guitarist, Richard Rodd, and will continue to bring their unending tour to stages throughout Pennsylvania and Maryland during the summer months.

Adela of Toy

Pittsburgh's self-proclaimed "Worst Band Ever" – the Leg-

continued on next page...

Matt Savino of Toy

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The Professor continued...

endary Hucklebucks – returned to McGarvey's in late March to bring their barnstorming brand of high-powered, roots-driven rock and roll. Two bands opened the proceedings; I missed Abstentious' opening set, but caught much of the performance from Altoona punk-slamming specialists X's For Eyes. Since 2010, this group – singers and guitarists Tom Noel and Tim Mort, bassist Oob and drummer Justin Fair – have brought the firepower with torrid, fast-firing rhythms, gritty vocals and tenacity. X's For Eyes introduced several new songs; including "814," "Nightlife" and "Lights Out," and kept the crowd in front of the stage moving through it all. At set's end, X's For Eyes answered crowd requests for their early anthem and ode to where they came from, "Orchard Street." The Legendary Hucklebucks soon took the stage and picked up where the earlier two bands left off, often mixing punk rock velocity with rock, rockabilly, psychobilly, hints of country and more into a feverish blend. Tattooed singer and ringleader Ted Bundy mixed a high-flying, fire-and-brimstone vocal delivery with manic harmonica licks and nonstop energy to keep the crowd paying full attention; flanked by Uncle Piddles on upright bass, guitarists Johnny Devil and Dave Fresch, and drummer Brian Gault. The Hucklebucks introduced a new number from their forthcoming album, "Prime Time for a D.U.I.," as well as established older favorites like "3 Sheets," "Ballad of Johnny Devil," "Don't Feed the Rats" and more. They also threw in a version of The Cramps' "Soul Crusher." As always, the Legendary Hucklebucks had the McGarvey's crowd hanging on for the joyride from start to finish.

Christian Douglas of Toy

Adam Moore of Innocent Sin

Three powerful tribute groups provided an exciting band triple-bill at McGarvey's last month. This show featured groups from the Scranton-based Eastern Tribute Collective, a collection of musicians who can bring any of 12 different tribute bands to life. As I entered the venue, the first of the tributes was on the stage. Red Cap Assassins, subtitled the Limp Tribute to the Bizkit, had audience members up on the floor as they celebrated Limp Bizkit favorites and captured a similar swagger and attitude to the real group. The group kept the crowd stirred up through the entire set, especially on the incendiary "Break Stuff" and the Bizkit cover of George Michael's "Faith." Next up was System Of A Down tribute T.O.A.D. (Tribute Of A Down), which likewise celebrated many songs from the System Of A Down catalog. Their performance was dead on, as they convincingly brought the agitation and energy on S.O.A.D. favorites like "Sugar," "Toxicity," "Aerials," "Spiders," "Chop Suey" and many more. These two tributes then led up to the night's headliner, Slipknot tribute Wait and Bleed. All decked out in similar Slipknot-styled masks and costumes, this group too brought the aggression and fury as they focused on Slipknot's earlier career output. They kept the large McGarvey's crowd engaged and moving as they did familiar Slipknot favorites like "Duality," the tribute group's title song "Wait and Bleed," "My Plague," the incendiary anthem "Psychosocial," "Heretic Anthem" and more. A few of these musicians played in two and even all three of these tributes. In all, this was an exciting show, and it will be interesting to see if Eastern Tribute Collective brings any more tribute band packages to McGarvey's.

Carli Jones of Innocent Sin

After wintry weather scuttled their last attempt to visit Altoona, Emily's Toybox made their return to the Concordia Society last month. Emily's Toybox upped the ante on the craziness this night, even bringing back their toilet paper launcher! Singer Mike Wise brought the irreverence and raunch factor this night, resulting in constant laughter from the crowd from start to end. Mike, guitarist Brandon Reece, bassist Rick Lienhard and drummer Muff kept the music and comedy constant as they fired up original song favorites like "Bionic" and "Back of the Bus," and a wild mixture of cover numbers spanning the Ramones' "I Wanna Be Sedated" to Zac Brown Band's "Chicken Fried," plus songs from Def Leppard, John Mellencamp, Journey, Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Van Halen, Buckcherry and many more. Some of the funnier musical moments of the night included Mike's Eddie Vedder vocalizations on Pearl Jam's "Alive," his crazed falsetto on Def Leppard's "Pour Some Sugar on Me," the group's death metal variation on Sir Mix A Lot's "Baby Got Back" and more. Needless to say, an insane time! Emily's Toybox will issue a new CD in October to mark their 30th anniversary as a band, and they return to the Concordia Society on September 27.

Brandon Reese of Emily's Toybox

Pittsburgh roots rock and alt country performers The Shiners visited Johnstown's Westwood Bar & Grill early last month. This group delivered stunning musicianship and skills as they mixed their original songs with blues and blues rock, southern rock, country, soul favorites and more. Guitarists and singers Rob Keller and Jim "Slim" Varhola, fiddler Ben Mainhart, bassist Larry Antinozzi and drummer Dave Marshall delivered numer-

continued on next page...

Mike Wise of Emily's Toybox

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Victor Synn of Hair Force One

The Professor continued...

ous highlights to the Westwood audience this night; including the round-robin soloing between Rob, Jim and Ben on Marshall Tucker Band's "This Ol' Cowboy," their renditions of Jerry Reed's "Amos Moses" and Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Tuesday's Gone," and the group's set-closing medley that started with Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues" before delving into the "Hee Haw" TV show double-shot of "Gloom Despair and Agony on Me" and "Where Oh Where Are You Tonight," then into "Orange Blossom Special," back to "Folsom Prison Blues," and then finishing off with the Commander Cody-popularized "Hot Rod Lincoln" – complete with Jim revving up the engine and generating the police sirens on his guitar strings! These highlights were not lost on the audience, as cheers and applause grew louder as the night progressed. The Shiners will be releasing a new album later this year.

State College's Velveeta celebrates 30 years as a band this year, and they continue to bring musical fun and "80's Cheese" to audiences far and wide. The group's latest visit to Altoona's 4D's Lounge last month brought lots of 1980s song favorites plus a few surprises. Singer and guitarist Brian Kriley, singer and bassist Adam Becker, keyboardist and singer Brent Martin, and drummer and singer John Harper reliably delivered the 80s tunes, spanning Van Halen's "Jump" to Men Without Hats' "Safety Dance" to Soft Cell's "Tainted Love," plus tunes from Kenny Loggins, Ratt, Hall & Oates, the Cure, Violent Femmes, The Outfield and more. Some of the surprises included Velveeta unleashing their version of Van Halen's "Hot For Teacher" with John's blistering drum work, the group's accurate rendering of The Who's "Baba O'Riley," and their powerful and convincing takes on Living Colour's "Cult of Personality" and Rush's "Tom Sawyer." There's a reason why Velveeta has steadily expanded their fan base, popularity and geographic range of venues – they deliver a consistent, fun and enjoyable night of music every show!

Originally from the Altoona area, Chanz and Paula Hale moved to Nashville and spent 30 years there writing, performing music and entertaining audiences. After returning to the Altoona area a few years ago, the pair – now called The American Mood – has grown into a favorite on area stages. I experienced their fun show again in late March at Altoona's 33 On Mac; as they performed a vast variety of classic and modern hits and favorites, along with a few of their own songs. Chanz plays guitar; both he and Paula sing. They delivered a bright and pleasant mood and smooth vocal harmonies as they performed numbers from Van Morrison, Tom Petty, the Pointer Sisters, Elvis Presley, Hootie & the Blowfish, Sister Hazel, Michael Jackson, Pink, Modern English and many more. They also did two of their own songs, "Headin' Down South" and "Till You." The American Mood welcomed requests, and also welcomed 33 On Mac owner Nicole up to the stage to help sing "I Think We're Alone Now." The audience's cheers grew louder with each song, and The American Mood's presentation turned into a lively, feel-good party. Watch for The American Mood around the area; they return to 33 on Mac on May 30.

Uncle Piddles of the Legendary Hucklebucks

Oak Spring Winery near Altoona experienced its own version of a "British Invasion" in late March during a "Friday Wine Down" event when they hosted English-born singer and guitarist Elton Ron. Presenting "Brit Night," Ron played a variety of song favorites from both the U.K. and U.S.A., and also spotlighted some English hit songs not normally heard in the U.S. Playing acoustic guitar, Ron sang several numbers each from the Beatles and Elton John; doing renditions of Elton's "Candle in the Wind," "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me" and "Tiny Dancer" as well as the Fab Four's "All You Need Is Love" and "Something" (as well as Paul McCartney & Wings' "Band on the Run"). Ron also dug deeper to play songs from Lonnie Donegan ("The King of Skiffle") and The Marmalade. And Ron performed the song "Matchstalk Men and Matchstalk Cats and Dogs," a 1977 English folk song hit for acoustic duo Brian and Michael. Ron's performance was pleasant, and he was eager to share English music stories with the audience. A unique experience, Elton Ron's show can be seen regularly on Altoona area stages.

Johnny Devil of the Legendary Hucklebucks

Cumberland, Maryland-based singer and songwriter Briana Merkel has been making her way onto Pennsylvania stages in recent months, and I caught part of her performance last month at the Olde Bedford Brewing Company in Bedford. A folk and bluegrass artist who is also a member of Cumberland-based bluegrass band JiggleBilly, Briana offered solid acoustic guitar skills and displayed a smooth and delicate-edged singing style as she played a mix of her own original songs and select covers. Some of her original songs included "Life Is Like A Song," "Fever in Me" and "Trouble." She also took her cover material and made it into her own distinctive flavor, doing renditions of Bruce Springsteen's "Dancing in the Dark," the BeeGee's "To Love Somebody," and Pink Floyd's "Time" into "Breathe." Briana performs throughout western Maryland, West Virginia and southern PA.

With an open Thursday night last month, I scratched an itch and did my first-ever trip to Over The Mountain in Rockton (in the wooded wilderness along Route 322 several miles west of Clearfield) to sample some of their food (the hot ranch wings are great!) and partake in their weekly Thursday night Open Jam, hosted by Brandon Giuffre. This was an enjoyable time, as I got to sit in on djembe with a cast of local Clearfield area musicians. The setting was very informal, and perfection was not required; we just randomly picked out different songs to perform and let the muse carry us. I enjoyed playing alongside Brandon (who sang, played guitar and some drums through the evening), singer and

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guitarist Jim Barnough, bassist Don Short, guitarist and singer Butch Salada, drummer and guitarist Mark Kephart and others. Mark also played a short set of some of his original songs, as did singer and guitarist Alex Haines – who lit the room up when he suddenly slammed out a rowdy rendition of AC/DC's "Let There Be Rock!" I enjoyed my first visit to Over The Mountain, and return visits are likely!

News and notes…Several annual festivals have announced their dates and slates: Gov't Mule, Andy Frasco & the U.N. and Pigeons Playing Ping Pong have been announced as headliners at this year's AmeriServ Flood City Music Festival, taking place on July 25 and 26 in and around Johnstown's People's Natural Gas Park…The Flood City Music Festival has also announced the first two performances in this year's High Mark Blue Cross Blue Shield Free Summer Concert Series; also taking place at People's Natural Gas Park. The first show will be on Friday, June 20, with headliners Joe Grushecky & the Houserockers with special guests The Desperadoes. The second concert will happen on Saturday, July 5, and will feature western Maryland bluegrass performers The Plate Scrapers with special guests the Hickory Bottom Band…The dates have been announced for this year's Route 22 Rock & Blues Festival, returning to the Lincoln Caverns Campground near Huntingdon; this year's festival will take place July 12-14, and the performer line-up for this year's festival will be announced soon…The fifth annual Upstage Music Festival returns August 7-9 to the Clearfield County Fairgrounds…And the annual Mass N Tha Grass Music & Arts Festival takes place August 8-10 at the Sinking Valley Fairgrounds between Altoona and Tyrone…Somerset-based teenage singer and songwriter Allison Borek has released her debut vinyl record EP, called "Melancholy"…Entries are again being accepted for the 2025 Pennsylvania Heritage Songwriting Contest (PHSC). Since 2008, the nonprofit PHSC has recognized songwriters whose song creations celebrate Pennsylvania, its people, places, history and folklore. Song submissions must have a Pennsylvania namesake, theme or reference. Three winning entries will be selected, with the awards ceremony taking place at the annual Smoked Country Jam Bluegrass Festival, happening June 19-21 at the Quiet Oaks Campground near Cross Fork. Winners receive cash prizes of $300/1st place, $200/2nd place and $100/3rd place; along Smoked Country Jam festival passes and getting to perform their winning songs onstage. Entry deadline is May 15, and there is a $25 entry fee per song with a limit of two per songwriter. For entry form, contest rules and full details, visit www.smokedcountryjam.com, click on "Get Involved" and then "PHSC."

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~ All photos on The Professor's pages by Jim Price~

Ted Bundy of the Legendary Hucklebucks

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Nationals continued....

fects, and just burn everything like we used to." WWE's Damian Priest will host the show.

Blondie drummer Clem Burke died following a private battle with cancer, on April 6. He was 70. Frontwoman Debbie Harry and co-founder/guitarist Chris Stein, referred to Burke as "the heartbeat of Blondie" and "a self proclaimed 'Rock & Roll survivalist.'" Burke joined Blondie in 1975, shortly after the band was formed in 1974, and was featured on all of its releases from 1976's self-titled LP to its most recent, 2017's Pollinator. The band's next album is expected to be released later this year. Burke was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2006 alongside Blondie. Clem's influence extended far beyond Blondie. He played and collaborated with numerous iconic artists, including Eurythmics, Ramones, Bob Dylan, Bob Geldof, Iggy Pop, Joan Jett, Nancy Sinatra, Chequered Past, The Fleshtones, The Romantics, Dramarama, The Adult Net, The Split Squad, The International Swingers, L.A.M.F., Empty Hearts, Slinky Vagabond, and even the Go-Go's.

Michael Monroe & Eric

Following the announcement that Stevie Nicks would be teaming up with Billy Joel for select stadium dates this summer, the legendary singer/songwriter unveiled solo touring plans throughout the summer and fall. The two-time Rock and Roll Hall of fame inductee is also a Grammy winner and multi-platinum artist who has sold more than 220 million albums. Nicks, broke news that she is currently working on a new album, "I call it the ghost record because it just kind of happened in the last couple of weeks. I have seven songs and they are autobiographical. They are real stories, memories of mine, of fantastic men. I've written a song about Prince because we were friends." After more than a decade, hip-hop pioneer and N.W.A co-founder, Ice Cube returns to the national stage with the "Truth to Power: 4 Decades of Attitude" tour. It includes 22 dates across the U.S. and Canada including stops in Brooklyn's Barclay Center Sept 4 and Baltimore's CFG Bank Arena Sept 5. "'Truth to Power' is more than a tour — it's a 40-year celebration," Cube said in a statement. "The world needs truth. The people need power. And that's what my music brings. It's gonna' be next level to go from city to city with a major production unlike anything I've ever done before." West Coast hip-hop legends Cypress Hill announced a month-long "Dank Daze of Summer" U.S. tour, with hip-hop duo Atmosphere. Joining Cypress Hill and Atmosphere will be Grammy Award-winning rapper Lupe Fiasco, and influential, LA-based hip-hop act The Pharcyde. The tour includes visits to Baltimore's Pier Six Pavilion on Aug 15 and Asbury Park, NJ Stone Pony Summer Stage on Aug 17.

Heavy rock legends Alice Cooper and Judas Priest are teaming up for a 22-date North American co-headline tour this fall with metal band Corrosion of Conformity as support on most dates. British rockers Judas Priest, led by frontman Rob Halford, are coming off the second leg of its "Invincible Shield Tour" and the release of its celebrated 19th studio album. American shock rock legend Alice Cooper, is set to wrap his "Too Close For Comfort" tour this summer, promoting his most recent album, Road, and promises an all-new show for the upcoming tour. Dates include, PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ on Sept 26 and Star Lake Pavilion in Burgettstown, PA on Oct 1. Gene Simmons has canceled more than half of his upcoming solo tour dates, with no reason provided for why the shows will no longer be taking place. The April and May dates of the tour will be rescheduled for early 2026, according to Christina Vitaglano, who runs Simmons' VIP fan experience packages, but ticket holders are being refunded at the point of purchase. Simmons was offering fans the chance to be his roadie for the price of $12,495, providing them with the ultimate backstage opportunity of joining the crew. In addition to the cancellation of Simmons' upcoming dates, KISS announced it will perform a one-off in Las Vegas from Nov. 14 to 16 at Virgin Hotels Las Vegas. The show will find KISS playing makeup-free as part of the event, and marks KISS' first show since December 2023 when they wrapped up their "End Of The Road" farewell tour at New York City's Madison Square Garden.

Blink-182 is returning to the road this fall with Alkaline Trio as special guests for the "Missionary Impossible Tour." This follows blink-192's global stadium run in 2024 and It celebrates the release of the band's latest album, One More Time…, which marks the first album with the original three members in over a decade. Stops include Pittsburgh's Four Chord Music Festival on Sept 13 and Asbury Park, NJ Sea. Hear. Now Festival on Sept 14. Following her headline performances at Coachella, Lady Gaga is expanding her "Mayhem Ball Tour" with 28-dates in North America including Aug 22, 23, 26 and 27 at NYC Madison Square Garden. The run marks Gaga's first tour in seven years. Indie bands The Flaming Lips and Modest Mouse will join up this summer for a tour of U.S. outdoor theaters. The 20-date tour begins in August visiting Philadelphia's Mann on Aug 5. Friko and Dehd will support on select dates. The tour is the return of the road for The Flaming Lips after last year's sold-out run with Weezer and Dinosaur Jr. , while Modest Mouse was in the theaters for their 2024 headline tour. Australian new wavers The Church will tour theaters and clubs across North America this summer, celebrating 45 years of singles from their astonishing 37 album collection. The 25-show, four-week "The Singles" tour plays the Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville, PA on Aug 2, Asbury Park, NJ Stone Pony on Aug 3 and Washington DC 9:30 Club on Aug 6. The Church toured with The Afghan Whigs in the summer of 2024.

MAY CONCERTS: Devo - Philadelphia The Met May 1. The Bouncing Souls - Baltimore Soundstage May 2. The Bouncing Souls - Philadelphia Venice Island May 3. AC/DC - Pittsburgh Heinz Field May 8. Fontaines DC - Washington DC Anthem May 10. Bad Nerves / Spiritual Cramp - Baltimore Soundstage May 11. AC/DC - Landover, MD Northwest Stadium May 12. Wyldlife - Philadelphia Nikki Lopez Bar May 16. Wyldlife - NYC Bowery Electric May 17. Amyl and the Sniffers - Silver Spring, MD Fillmore May 19. Insane Clown Posse - Reading Reverb May 24. Future Islands - Harrisburg XL Live May 25. Post Malone - Hersheypark Stadium May 28. Foxy Shazam - Millersville Phantom Power May 31

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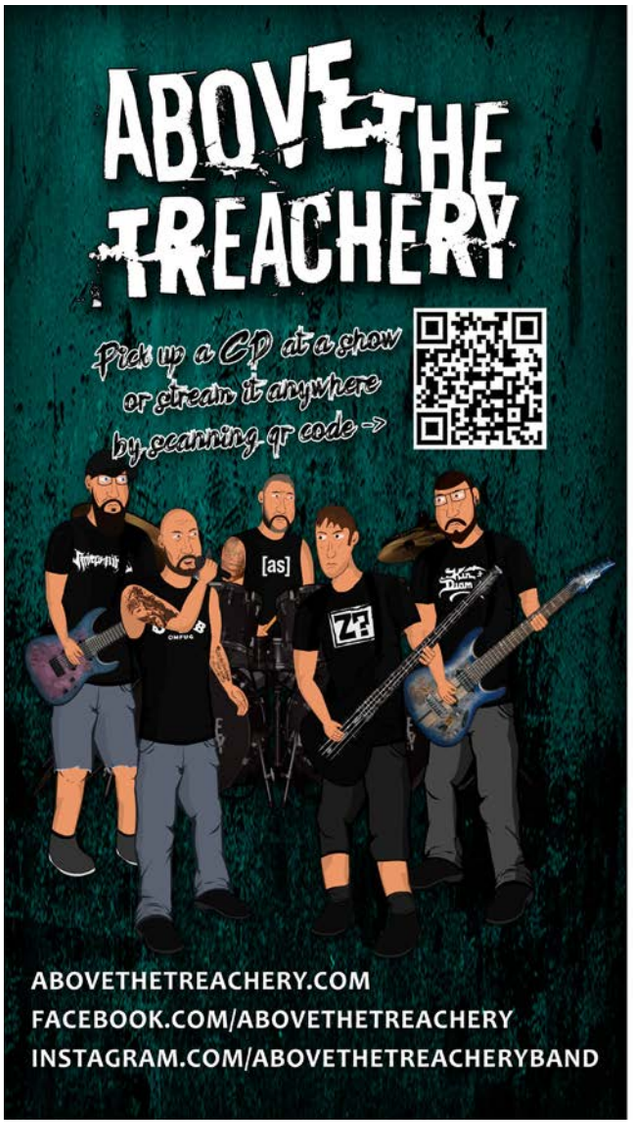

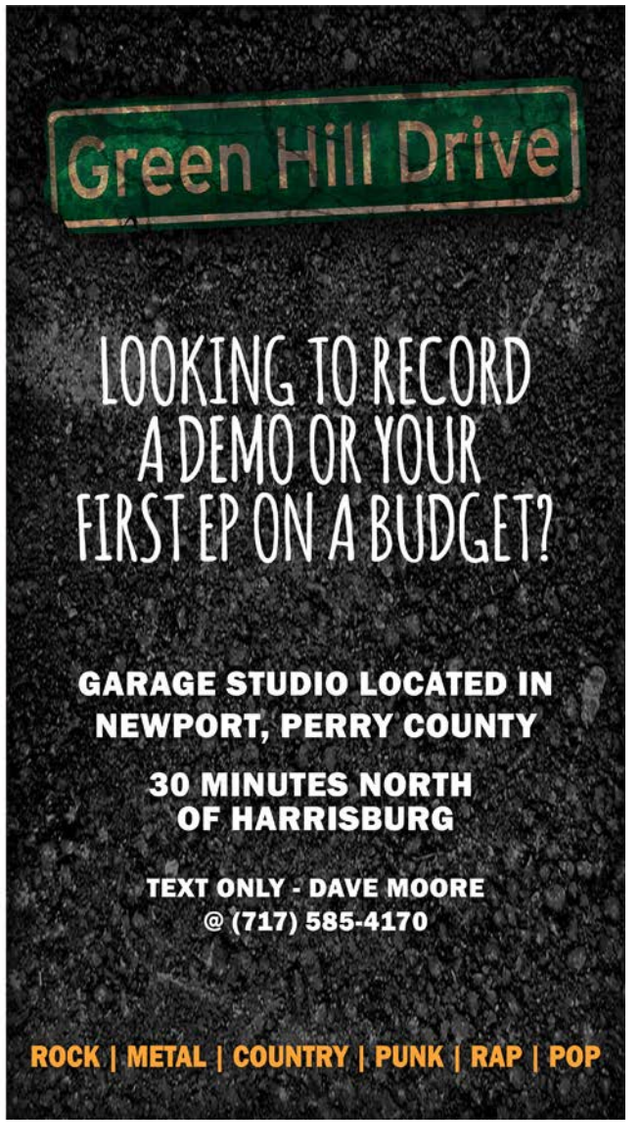
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WANTED: Portage PA: Drummer and Bass player wanted for original no play out home recording and YouTube video. Must be 50 plus in age voicemail 814-322-7515.

WANTED: Acoustic, Electric Guitar player with some Lead ability, to play and sing Lead, harmony vocals with Experienced Bass player singer for Acoustic Duo playing gigs. Call: 484-345-0266

WANTED & AVAILABLE: Carlisle area blues/folk guitarist/vocals seeking local musicians. Would be excited to play in a band setting or smaller acoustic type gigs. Taylor 717-448-7573.

WANTED: Bass player wanted for working rock cover band in Bedford/Altoona area. Text or call 814-327-5497.

WANTED: HBG area guitarist looking for other musicians to play with as a pass time to start with. if its a go-then we move ahead. call 223-241-8123

WANTED:: South Central Junction seeks a male tenor and a keyboardist. Swing Funk, Jazz, Blues, etc Rehearse every Thursday in Lancaster 6:30-9:30 pm Call Robbie 717-201-0578

WANTED: Singer for 80's metal band Male or Female. High energy professional vocals required. South York area text 717-683-8625

WANTED: Lancaster Rock band looking for bassist email mattmis42@gmail.com if interested. More info upon request

WANTED: Working band needs bass and lead guitar players Williamsport area country and classic rock 570-415-8016

WANTED Anyone want to form a Def Lep tribute band? You have to be able to sing. Mike 717-386-1205

WANTED: Lead Guitar needed for 80's metal band. This is not a startup! Practice Sundays in Red Lion, Pa. Backing vocals a plus. Text 717-683-8625

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AVAILABLE: Bass Player with vocals looking for 80's/90's Rock band. Good Attitude, Looking for same. Reading, Berks County Area. Good Equipment. Looking to play out. Call:484-345-0266

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